

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COLOMB 02407 041158Z

43

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 MMO-04 ACDA-10 SAJ-01

EA-10 AF-06 IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ABF-01 TRSE-00 /121 W

----- 066907

R 041130Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3152

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS COLOMBO 2407

EO 11652:N/A

TAGS: MARR, CE, US, XO

SUBJ: EDITORIAL ON DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION PLANS

REF: COLOMBO 2389

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF EDITORIAL (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED) IN GOVT-CONTROLLED CEYLON DAILY NEWS OF AUG 4 UNDER TITLE OF "SETBACK TO PEACE ZONE":  
"DECISION TO EXPAND NAVAL STATION ON BRITISH OWNED ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA IN INDIAN OCEAN, WHICH US SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TOOK LAST WEEK, CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS ACT OF INDESCRIBABLE NAIVETE, IF FOLLY IS TOO HARSH WORD. IT SEEMS AS THOUGH VIETNAM WAR ENDED AEONS AGO RATHER THAN COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK. US SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SEEM TO BE MOVED MORE BY SPIRIT OF MAYAGUEZ THAN BY GLOW OF WISDOM WHICH PERSUADED THIS GREAT POWER TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM VIETNAM. IN WHAT OTHER WAY CAN DECISION TO ARM ANOTHER  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 COLOMB 02407 041158Z

BASE IN INDIAN OCEAN BE EXPLAINED THAN FROM

VIEWPOINT THAT OUR MEMORY IS SO TRAGICALLY  
SHORT THAT HUMANITY IS REPEATEDLY BEING LED INTO  
FOLLIES BY SOME STRANGE HAND OF FATE?

"IT IS NOT, OF COURSE, SITUATION WHICH ANY  
OF LITTORAL STATES IN INDIAN OCEAN CAN CONTEMPLATE  
STOICALLY. IT IS NANIMOUS VIEW OF THESE COUNTRIES  
THAT WE SHOULD BE LEFT IN PEACE. ENOUGH HAS  
HAPPENED IN PAST TO WARN US THAT STRANGE DESIRES  
AND ADVENTURES WHICH BESET WESTERN NATIONS FROM  
TIME TO TIME HAVE ENDED FINALLY IN DESTRUCTION OF  
WHOLE CULTURES, THEIR WAYS OF LIFE AND EVEN IN  
LOSS OF CHERISHED FREEDOMS. PITY IS THAT WHEN  
BIG POWERS CAST THEIR EYES IN DIRECTION OF  
INDIAN OCEAN THEY DONOT SEE PEOPLE OR PRINCIPLES --  
ONLY POWER VACUUM. POWER VACUUM HAS BEEN IRRESISTIBLE  
ATTRACTION TO WESTERNERS, THAN EVEN OUR FAMED SPICES  
AND PRECIOUS STONES.

"EACH OF THEM IN THEIR HEYDAY HAS CONCEIVED  
HIS ROLE AS ONE OF POLICING AREA, WHICH REALLY  
MEANT KEEPING OUT INTRUDER FROM SELF-PROCLAIMED  
PRESERVES. AS HISTORY HAS AMPLY SHOWN ROLES HAVE  
BEEN ILL-STARRED. LAST POLICEMAN, WHO THOUGHT AT  
ONE TIME THAT SUN WOULD NEVER SET ON HIS EMPIRE, HAS  
RETIRED FROM JOB AND IS NOW GREATLY OUT OF POCKET  
FOR HIS TROUBLES. NOT ONE  
OF THESE GLARING EXAMPLES  
APPEAR TO HAVE DAUNTED US SENATE. EVEN EFFORTS  
OF 18-NATION UN COMMITTEE TO PERSUADE BIG POWERS  
TO ATTEND CONFERENCE WHERE THEY COULD DISCUSS  
MEASURES TO KEEP INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE HAVE  
BEEN FRUITLESS. WHAT IS WORSE IS NONE OF  
BIG POWERS, ACCORDING TO MR SHIRLEY AMERASINGHE,  
CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE, HAS ACCEPTED INVITATION TO  
ATTEND CONFERENCE.

"THEIR SCANT REGARD FOR CONCERN OF SMALLER  
NATIONS LEAVES THEM IN GREAT FRUSTRATION, UNSURE  
OF ROLE OF BIG POWERS OR THEIR PROMISES TO MAKE  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 COLOMB 02407 041158Z

WORLD MORE SECURE. WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER OF  
NON-ALIGNED GROUP MEET IN LIMA THIS MONTH THEY  
WILL HAVE, AS MAJOR WORRY, STEPS THEY SHOULD TAKE  
TO PERSUADE BIG POWERS TO ATTEND UN COMMITTEE  
DISCUSSIONS. MEANWHILE, "FIRST ACT OF SCENARIO  
IDENTICAL TO THAT WHICH TOOK US INTO THE QUAGMIRE",

HAS BEEN PERFORMED. WORDS ARE THAT

OF SENATOR JOHN CULVER WHO USED THEM TO DESCRIBE  
AMERICAN DECISION TO VOTE NEARLY 32 MILLION  
DOLLARS FOR RENOVATING NAVAL BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA.  
THOUGH THIS IS GREAT SETBACK TO HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS  
OF LITTORAL STATES IN INDIAN OCEAN, THEY WILL  
CONTINUE TO PURSUE WAYS IN WHICH BIG POWERS CAN  
BE RECALLED TO SOBRIETY."

2. COMMENT FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.  
VAN HOLLEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, DIEGO GARCIA, MILITARY BASES, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975COLOMB02407  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750268-0547  
**From:** COLOMBO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750882/aaaacuuup.tel  
**Line Count:** 125  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 COLOMBO 2389  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** hartledg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 FEB 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2004 by hartledg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EDITORIAL ON DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION PLANS  
**TAGS:** MARR, CE, US, XO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006